

Draft

Rockville Environment Commission Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, May 2, 2013 Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Steve Cardon, Julie Palakovich Carr (arrived late), Kris Dighe, Alicia Hosmer, Devinie Lye, Clark Reed (by phone) and Lea Rosenbohm

Commissioners Absent: John Becker and Beri Kravitz

Guests: Kelly Blynn of the Coalition for Smarter Growth
Mark Charles, Environmental Management

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm by Acting Chair Dighe.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hosmer moved and Commissioner Lye seconded approval of the April 4, 2013 meeting minutes with no corrections. The motion passed 3-0-3.

Montgomery County Rapid Transit Initiative

Kelly Blynn of the Coalition for Smarter Growth discussed various proposed transit initiatives that involve Montgomery County. The Coalition's overall mission is to pursue and advocate for transit solutions across the DC metro area.

Ms. Blynn indicated that there were several options being considered. A public hearing is scheduled for a proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Network (express buses running on ten dedicated lanes along main transportation corridors throughout Montgomery County) at the end of the month. The group is also interested in moving the Purple Line Metro Project forward; encouraging the Rockville Pike Plan; and ensuring that Metro service on the existing lines remains safe and reliable (since much of the system is reaching the end of its useful life. One question the Coalition is wrestling with is how to get people to use these mass transit systems once they are built.

Solar Assessment Potential Website

Commissioners Rosenbohm demonstrated a website that calculates the potential (size and kilowatts) for solar PV on structures including Rockville building stock. The Commission intends to use this site during Hometown Holidays to engage businesses and residents on installing solar energy at work and home. Commissioner Rosenbohm will verify that there is a *wifi* hot spot in the vicinity of the Commission's booth. As a follow on, Commissioner Reed distributed a draft factsheet/handout that would serve as a visitor takeaway from the booth. Commissioner Reed then moved and Commissioner Cardon seconded that \$50 be used to produce these handouts in color. After brief discussion, the Commission approved the motion 6-0-0.

Hometown Holidays Preparations

The Environmental Movie

- The *Chasing Ice* film distributors (Submarine Entertainment LLC) have sent an invoice to the City which has been paid. Environmental Management has not yet heard back from the distributors regarding the exact date the disk(s) will arrive.
- The Commissioner still needs to promote the film. It was suggested that last year's VP email list be used soon. The Hometown Holidays festival program will include a generic description of an environmental film, including the show times. The film will also be advertised on the social media outlets and the City HTH webpage.
- Several Commissioners plan to attend the Friday screening. Mark Charles will show them how to work the AV system in the Mayor and Council Chambers.
- Commissioner Rosenbohm volunteered to show the film on Saturday afternoon.
- Commissioner Hosmer will investigate light food donations.
- Commissioner Reed indicated he could go to Costco if Commissioners want to split the costs.

Rainbarrels

- Lowes has generously donated a rainbarrel for a resident raffle.
- Commissioner Hosmer will obtain raffle tickets.
- Commissioner Rosenbohm will make a sign for the rain barrel.

Display Materials

- The Commission will send an email requesting specific display and outreach materials needed for the booth to Environmental Management. Logistics are somewhat complicated this year by the Division's upcoming office move on May 10.
- Commissioner Kravitz will send an email to Environmental Management requesting specific graphics for use on the prize/trivia wheel.
- Commissioner Cardon volunteered to pick up materials several days before the Festival.
- The Commission also discussed additional "give-a-way" promotional items. Commissioner Cardon indicated he had recently used a vendor as part of Fort Meade's Earth Day event. He will circulate an email with recommendations for the Commission to vote on.

The Booth

- The booth will be staffed using three 1.5 hour shifts from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Saturday, May 25.

Social Media Status

The City has approved the Commission's Facebook page and the page goes live tomorrow (May 3). All Commissioners are encouraged to join Facebook and "like" the Commission's page. All Commissioners (and City staff) are also encouraged to take photos and collect announcements to post and send these to Commissioner Lye.

Multi-City Meeting

Commissioners Becker, Cardon and Dighe attended the Thursday, April 18 meeting of the multi-city boards and commissions in Chevy Chase. Rockville offered to host the October meeting which was accepted by the group.

Environmental Management Staff Report

- Mark Charles reported on various successful events the City sponsored as part of Earth Month.
- Environmental Management has completed interviews for the part time commercial inspector and has hired Wendy Blackman who will start June 10.
- The recycling survey (for the Lincoln Park and King Farm neighborhoods) has been drafted and transmitted to the City Communications Team. They have asked to postpone distribution until late June.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 by unanimous consensus.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 7:30 pm** in the **Diamondback Conference Room** of the **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850**. The public is invited to attend.